Trinity Reformed Church

50 Years of Faithful Footprints

1956 TRINITY REFORMED CHURCH 50th ANNIVERSARY MUNSTER, IN 2006

Trinity Reformed Church
50th Anniversary Banquet
"Fifty Years of Faithful Footprints"
1956 - 2006

May 12 2006

6:30pm - Punch

Welcome Remarks — Gary Van Der Noord
The Blessing — Rev. Rich Bawinkel
Dinner

Tossed Salad
Rolls & Butter
Roast Beef and Gravy
Roasted Chicken
Mashed Potatoes
Green Beans
Applesauce
Ice Cream & Cake
Coffee, Tea and Milk

Music — Steven Krygsheld & Justin Rich
Trumpet & Piano

Praise Time — Joy Van Milligan
Soloist & Song Leader

Greetings from Guests
Recognition of Charter Members
Guest Music Group — Men's Chorus, 1st Reformed, Lansing
Cheryl Cassity, Director

Additional Greetings
Closing Remarks and
Singing of Theme Song

Am I a Soldier of the Cross?

Am I a soldier of the cross? A follower of the Lamb?
And shall I fear to own His cause Or blush to speak His name?

Must I be carried to the skies On flowery beds of ease,
While others fought to win the prize And sailed thru bloody seas?

Are there no foes for me to face? Must I not stem the flood?
Is this vile world a friend to grace, To help me on to God?

Sure I must fight if I would reign Increase my courage, Lord!
I'll bear the toil, endure the pain, Supported by Thy Word.

God of Our Fathers

God of our fathers, whose almighty hand
Leads forth in beauty all the starry band
Of shinning worlds in splendor thru the skies,
Our grateful songs before Thy throne arise.

Thy love divine hath led us in the past,
In this free land by Thee our lot is cast;
Be Thou our ruler, guardian, guide and stay,
Thy word our law, Thy paths our chosen way.

From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence,
Be Thy strong arm our ever sure defense;
Thy true religion in our hearts increase,
Thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

Refresh Thy people on their toilsome way,
Lead us from night to never-ending day;
Fill all our lives with love and grace divine,
And glory, laud and praise be ever Thine!

I Love to Tell the Story

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love;
I love to tell the story because I know 'tis true,
It satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.

Refrain: I love to tell the story! 'Twill be my theme in glory
To tell the old, old story Of Jesus and His love.

I love to tell the story 'tis pleasant to repeat
What seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet;
I love to tell the story for some have never heard
The message of salvation from God's own holy Word. Refrain

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest;
And when in scenes of glory I sing the new, new song,
'Twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long. Refrain

Find Us Faithful

O may all who come behind us find us faithful;

May the fire of our devotion light their way.

May the footprints that we leave Lead them to believe,

And the lives we live inspire them to obey.

O may all who come behind us find us faithful.

124 Charter Members

John Arends
Christeena Arends
Larry Arends
Judith Arends
Peter Boer, Sr.
Ivanell Boer Sr.
Andrew Bulte
Nellie Bulte
Margaret Carlson
Jacob DeMik
Mrs. Jacob DeMik
Albert Derks
Jeanette Derks
Kathryn Derks
Milton Derks
Hassie Derks
Robert Derks
Helen Derks
Gerhard De Young
Marian De Young
Mrs. Cornelia Elman
Laura Elman
Peter Elman
Mrs. Virginia Fleiker
John Fortuin
Elizabeth Fortuin
Wilma Kikkert Gard
Edward Graska
Mrs. Edward Graska
George Helder
Irene Helder
Bud Hoogewerf
Shirley Hoogewerf
Darlene Hook
Della Hook
Rollin Hook
Richard Hook
Eleanor Hook
Russell Hook

Margaret Hook
Fred Johnson
Mrs. Fred Johnson
Grace Kaluf
Jacob Kaluf
Dorothy Kaluf
Peter Kaluf
Elsie Kaluf
Cornelius Kaluf
Ed Kaluf
Robert J. Kaluf
Lorraine Kaluf
Mrs. Cornelia Kikkert
Peter Kikkert
Mrs. Peter Kikkert
Barney Kooi
Virginia Kooi
Ben Kooi
Jennie Kooi
Stella Kooi
William Kooi
Ernest Kooistra
Mrs. Ernest Kooistra
Gerald Krooswyk
Henrietta Krooswyk
Robert Krooswyk
William Kuipers
Hilda Kuipers
Pauline Slager Lagestee
Edward Lanting
Marcella Lanting
Henry Lanting
Mrs. Henry Lanting
Clarence Leensvaart
MrsClarence Leensvaart
Harlan Murray
Mrs. Harlan Murray
Ronald Natelborg
Geri Natelborg

124 Charter Members (cont'd)

Grace Nichols
Herbert Ooms
Mrs. Herbert Ooms
Russell Postma
Beulah Postma
Anton Reumann
David Rottenberg
Kathryn Rottenberg
Garrit Schaap
Ida Schaap
John Schoon
Vera Schoon
Dale Schoon
Jon Mark Schoon
Norm Schoon
Martha Schoon
Mrs. Donald Schuringa
Frank Slager
Lois Slager
Helen Slager
William A. Smith
Mrs. William A. Smith
John Terpstra, Jr.
Mrs. John Terpstra, Jr.
Gerrit Van Der Noord
Julia Van Der Noord
Henry Van Der Noord
Nellie Van Der Noord
Richard Vander Tuuk
Helen Vander Tuuk
Robert Ver Meulen
Mrs. Robert Ver Muelen
Adrian Van Es
Mrs. Adrian Van Es
John Vroom
Mrs. John Vroom
Leroy Wagner
Sophia Wagner
Henry Wennekes
Mrs. Henry Wennekes
Gerbrand Wiers
Hilda Wiers
Charles Wiers
Marinus Wiers
Maynard Zwart
Mrs. Maynard Zwart

97 Baptized Members

Arlene Arends
Joanne Arends
Richard Boer
Roger Boer
Diane Boer
Terry Boer
Albert Marvin Derks Jrs.
Richard Derks
Janell Derks
Daniel Derks
Craig Derks
Betty Lou De Young
Sandra De Young
Gerald De Young
Doris Bowers (Mrs.)
Anne Fortuin
Ronald Graska
Diana Graska
Celia Helder
Simon Helder
Sharon Hook
Robert Hook
Daniel Hook
Ray Hoogewerf
Rinkje Hoogewerf
Roger Hoogewerf
Marjorie Johnson
Fred Johnson
Hilda Kikkert
Cornelia Kikkert
Paul Kikkert
Ben Kooi
Albert Kooi
Gerald Krooswyk
Russ Krooswyk
Ernest Kooistra
Thomas Kooistra
Glenn Kuipers
Dennis Kuipers
Diana Lanting
Cheryl Lanting
Kathleen Lanting
Kathleen Lanting
Carol Lanting
Betty Leensvart
William Leensvaart
Cynthia Murray
Jim Natelborg
Rene Natelborg
Janice Nichols
Robert Ooms
Bev Ooms
Jack Postma
Marjorie Postma
Jim Postma
David Rottenberg
Garrit Schaap
Bob Schaap
Thomas Schoon
Gwendolyn Schoon
Donna Shuringa
Douglas Slager
William Smith Jr.
Marvin Smith
Larry Smith
Joan Terpstra
Gloria Terpstra
John Terpstra
Cynthia Terpstra
Gary Van Der Noord
Nancy Van Der Noord (Burbridge)
Bonnie Van Der Noord (De Vries)
Sandra Van Der Noord
Donald Vander Tuuk
Bob Vander Tuuk
Geraldine Vander Tuuk

97 Baptized Members (cont'd)

Tom Vander Tuuk
Henry Ver Meulen
Michael Van Es
Linda Van Es
Steven Van Es
David Vroom
Bonnie Vroom
Carol Wagner (Carr)
Dennis Wagner
Cornelia Wennekes

Julie Wennekes
Ron Wennekes
Marilyn Wiers
Sharon Wiers
Calvin Wiers
Albert Zwart
Joan Zwart
Larry Wiers
James Wiers
Jill Wiers
Jack Wiers

Birth of Trinity Church 1956

Garrit Schaap

First Reformed Church of Lansing, Illinois was growing to the point of adding an addition or starting a new congregation. After much consideration and prayer, a new thought was to start a new church. We decided to contact all families living east of Burnham Ave. After this was completed, fifty-six families decided to form a new church.

We started to hold services at Illiana High School. We were able to buy property in Munster, Indiana at Ridge Road and Columbia Ave. We were organized as Trinity Reformed Church of Munster on May 16, 1956.

The Rev. August Tellinghuisen led us in worship at this time. I remember him encouraging and warning us not to let this first love grow cold. We first built the parsonage with volunteer labor. Then in 1957 we built the church. Russell Postma drew the plans for both parsonage and church. I drew the plans for the steeple and built it at home and we erected it on church on a Saturday.

Our first service was on Thanksgiving Day 1957 which was led by our first Pastor, Harold Leestma. He was our pastor for five and one-half years. Rev. Nat Vander Werf was our second pastor. He was with us for one and one-half years. Then Gerrit Rozeboom led us for one and one-half years and he retired. Rev. Paul Schmidt was our fourth pastor. During his time with us we added an addition on the west side of church. He was our pastor for 9 to 10 years. We called Rev. Ralph Ver Ploeg. He studied the Bethel Bible Series with us which was an overview of the Old and New Testaments. We had these classes and this was a great spiritual treat.

After Pastor Ver Ploeg left, Dar Vander Wal became our pastor. He was with us 9 years or more. We then called Rev. Tim Schaaf. He left the ministry for some time. He's now serving the Lord in the State of Washington. After Tim Schaaf left us Rev. Rauwerdink led us in worship for 21 months. After this we called. Pastor Rich Bawinkel. We are being fed and led by his Ministry of Preaching and faithfulness to God's Word.

REMEMBER UNLESS YOU FORGET

Ralph Ver Ploeg

Knowing the heart of humanity—even that of the Child of God—our wise Heavenly Father informed His People through Moses to remember and to rehearse in their hearts and minds all the good things God had done for them unless they would in future generations forget the Lord and all the miracles and blessings He had done and to instead trust in themselves and their own efforts for the prosperity and successes in their lives. At this special time let us together remember the Lord our God with thanksgiving!

On the event of this great 50th Anniversary it is indeed a joy to remember all the great things that God has done for us in our ministry together for His glory. It is with regret that Sherry and I will be unable to be with you on May 12-13, 2006 due to our recent move to Arizona to be close to Sherry's children and grandchildren. In our new jobs and new beginnings we have limited time off and my shift being in security presently includes weekends. If things change we will of course inform you.

When the Apostle Paul wrote to the congregation at Philippi he shared some tender expressions of ministry together even though he was presently absent from them. "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in

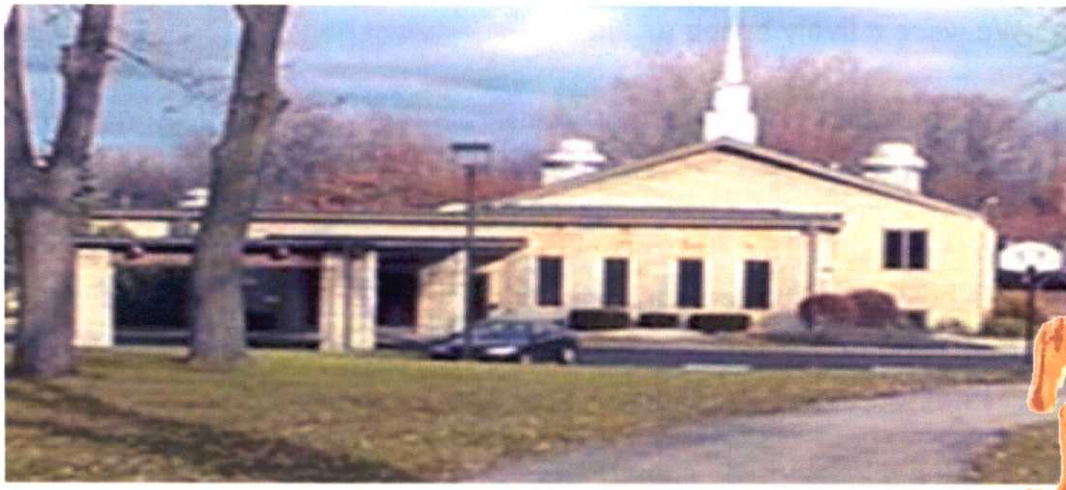
my heart;" (Philippians 1:3-7) Yes, thank you, Jesus, God is so good and faithful and has blessed us in so many ways.

Remember the tender joys of the Professions of Faith, the Re-dedications to Christ, the precious baptisms, the fabulous food and fellowship together at congregational dinners, table fellowship with you in your homes, special congregational celebrations such as special programs and events that inspired us together.

Yes, remember as well our tears together when loved ones were laid to rest; when there was personal testing in hospitalizations, nursing homes, personal losses, being shut-in, personal heartaches and sorrows--all a part of life. The testing of life can come in unique and unexpected ways. I remember getting a phone call from Don Scheeringa to witness an unexpected loss. Don and his family had one of the most beautiful crops of green peppers remembered and they were to be marketed the next day. Within hours a hail storm came through and ruined the entire crop. I stood there with Don shaking my head in unbelief. What can you do? What can you say? I do not recall what I said but I recall that I cried. I do recall that through his tears Don smiled and gave it to God. What a faith!

Yes, in the special anniversary celebration there is much that will be remembered and shared and you will be in our thoughts and prayers and remembrances.

The Apostle Peter also had remembrance in mind when he shared. "So I will remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have. I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of his body . . . and I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things." (1 Peter 1:12-15).
As we look forward, we are living in great times and great opportunities for the gospel of Christ. In the closing verses of the Book of Revelation, we see great opportunity and a great promise all centering on the word "come". "The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come!' And let him who hears say, 'Come!' Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life . . . He (Jesus) who testifies to these things says, 'Yes, I am coming soon.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen."



REMEMBERING THE VERY BEGINNING . . .

Pauline Lagastee

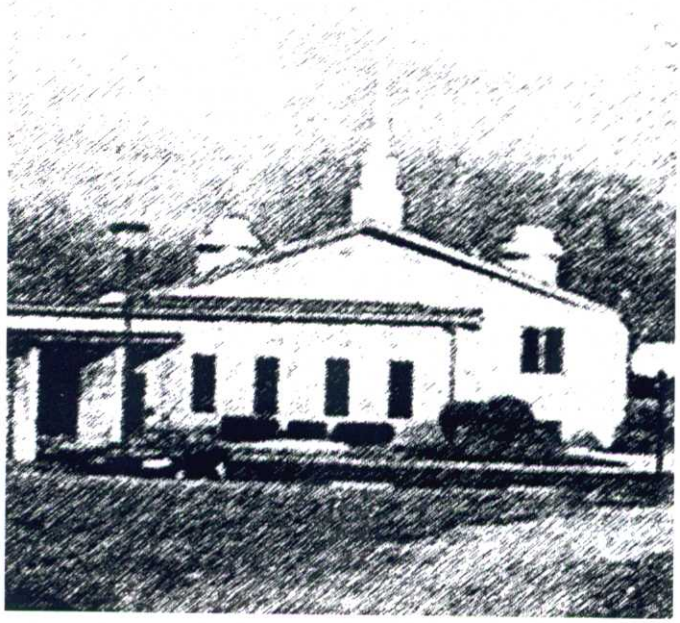
The evening Trinity Reformed Church was organized I was one of three that made Profession of Faith. I was there as Trinity was born, and it was such an exciting time, so much enthusiasm and joy, working together. There was so much to do clearing land, building a home for pastor and family and later the church, all done with volunteer labor. We were very fortunate to have so many men of the church on one form or other of the building trade. These men worked most every Saturday at the property using their own equipment or borrowing heavy equipment from their employers or friends. And don't forget the ladies of the church. If their husbands were working at the property, they were bringing hot food and coffee for lunch and coffee breaks. There was no fast food place around here in the mid-fifties. Al this working together was a wonderful way to bond these families into a unit, a tight unit. I remember my Dad on his way home from work bringing loads of cement blocks in his dump truck and then unloading them by hand in order to get the basement for the parsonage started, saving the cost of delivery. That is how careful the building committee planned in order to save money. Lots of sweat from lots of people went into the creation of the minister's home and the first church and those people involved loved every minute of it. They were creating something new and felt God was leading them.

My high school years were centered at Trinity. We had a very active group of teens and met every Sunday night before evening church. We also had many, many activities and parties at the church: hayrides, beach parties,

scavenger hunts, sunrise breakfasts, etc. And our parents were there preparing the food we made disappear. There was always something going on. We were a lively bunch of kids.

I met my husband at Trinity. He came to a Sunday evening service with his aunt and uncle just to meet me. That is another wonderful thing Trinity did for me. If I would have had a church wedding, I would have been the first member married in the new church, but we decided to be married in my parent's home. We raised our sons here and were proud that they were active in the youth group just as I had been, and they married here and began raising their families . And so it continues . . .

As I think back on the beginning, I am so glad I was a part of it. I am sure it helped form the faith I have today.



EARLY EMEMORIES OF TRINITY

The First Pastoral Era

Bob Vander Tuuk

My earliest memory of Trinity Reformed Church was when there was no Trinity Reformed Church. I remember our family driving past the northeast corner of Ridge Road and Columbia Avenue on our way to Lansing and there was nothing there—only willow bushes, weeds and some trees where the church now stands. This was soon to change as the First Reformed Church of Lansing decided in the mid- 1950s to daughter a new church. Some of these original members are still members of Trinity after almost 50 years. You will learn who they are as our 50th Anniversary committee moves along in its planning.

During our first few years, we had services in the Illiana Christian High School auditorium in Lansing. Eventually we accumulated enough financing to buy the land filled with willow bushes and weeds. I remember the hard work and dedication that went into the building of Trinity. Many members contributed time, finances, and an incredible amount of labor to help build the church and the parsonage and to landscape the grounds. With God's help, this generation of Christians built the beautiful church property we all now worship in and enjoy.

My next memory is that of our first pastor, Rev. Harold Leestma. Rev. Leestma was young, full of energy, and dedicated to the task of serving Christ by proclaiming the gospel and by shepherding a new church community

in Munster. Although working on the building and grounds was not exactly one of his best talents, he dived into sidewalk and building work with an enthusiasm that was contagious. Members of the congregation who were skilled in carpentry and the construction trades were more than willing to donate their time and effort to make sure the building went well.

When the building and grounds were completed, I remember being at the church on Saturday mornings to help with the lawn moving. Many of the members were there helping. I can still remember many of the men bringing their own small lawn mowers to help mow the large lawn. Sometimes there were at least ten mowers buzzing out on the west lawn at the same time. I wondered if we would ever get that mowing done!

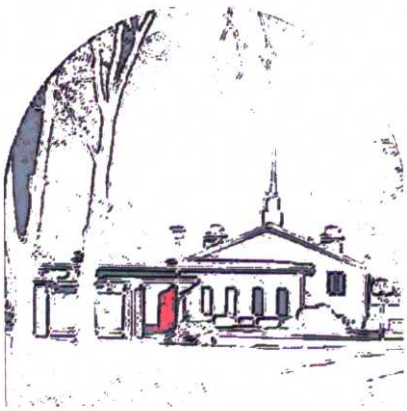
I can also remember the dedicated Consistory members, Sunday school teachers, and other members of the congregation as well as the many young people in the church. Many rooms were occupied during the Sunday school hour. Some of these classes were even held in the basement of the new parsonage. Most of the parents made sure that their children attended Sunday school. I especially remember the children's programs at Christmas time and the children's choir. The children's Christmas program usually consisted of a play such as re-enactment of the manger scene, music, and children reciting scripture or other verses they had to memorize or read.

About 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ years after the church was built, the first pastoral era at Trinity ended. Rev. Leestma took a call to a church in California. He is now 88 years of age and still living in California. Perhaps he will be able to join us at our 50th Anniversary. Many of those who were there at the beginning find it difficult to believe how much time has passed since he was here. You can see his picture, along with Trinity's other pastors, on the west wall of the sanctuary near the library.

Trinity moves on. We stand on the shoulders of those who preceded us. By the grace of God, the previous generation built the foundation. It is now up to us to continue building on that foundation and to make sure Trinity remains a beacon for Christ in this community.

The Women of Trinity

Julia Van Der Noord



After Trinity was organized, the Women's Guild for Christian Service soon emerged. All women of the church were automatically enrolled in the Guild. Meetings were held once a month. The first concern was to support missionaries with prayer and projects. Lois Slager became the first President. Out of the Guild, afternoon and evening circles were formed, meeting solely for Bible study and prayer. The Ladies Afternoon Circle still meets the last Thursday of the month at 1:30pm at the church. They fondly remember Lois Slager who led them for 35 years.

The Guild initiated the Tuesday morning Coffee Break, an outreach ministry to the community; nursery was provided for babies and toddlers.

A Cradle Roll committee visited mothers with new babies. There were women who visited the sick in the church. Women helped with Daily Vacation Bible School, The Calvinettes, Family Night, Sunday School, Nursery and much more. There were service projects such as Spring House Cleaning the church. A group of women made cancer pads. (Before ready-made products, pads were put together with layers of newspaper, cut, sized, covered with material using old bed sheets, and then stitched around by hand.) These were then delivered to St. Margaret's Hospital in Hammond. Munster Community had not yet been built.

Still going strong is the Annual Church Yard Sale. There also was the outdoor Arts and Crafts Fair with booths set up on the west lawn.

The women published three cookbooks: in 1965, in 1985 and now the Recipes and Remembrances 50th Anniversary Cookbook.

In the past, the Kitchen Committee kept a very busy schedule. Before restaurants and catering became popular, dinners and banquets were served in the church. Meat and potatoes were the favorite menu. The special house dressing was named Church Dressing. Ma Carlson's recipe is in the 1965 cookbook:

10 T sugar,
1 teas. dry mustard
1 teas. salt
1 cup salad oil
½ cup vinegar,
1 teas. celery seed or salt

Shake well. Makes 1 pint. Keeps well in refrigerator.

Dinners were served to Mother-Daughter Banquets, Father-Son Banquets, Boy Scouts, Classis and Consistory luncheons and many others. A funeral committee still serves family and friends of the bereaved.

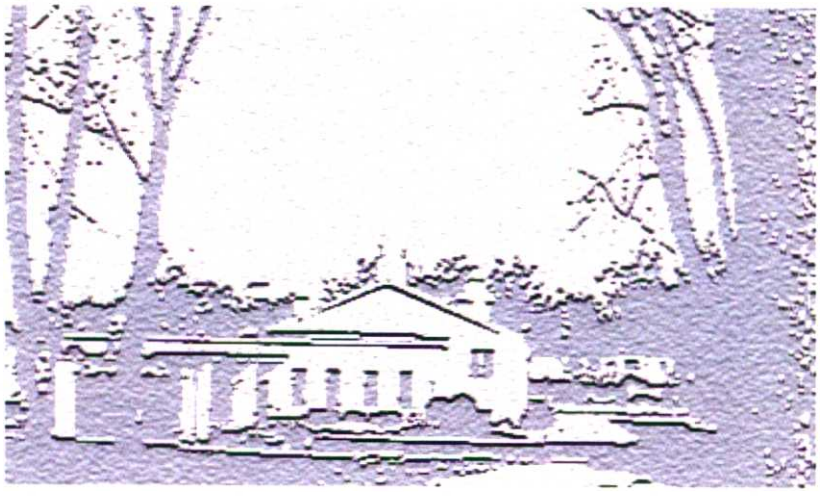
A few of us old Guild members are sitting back and really enjoy seeing the younger gals "doing what we used to do." Different faces, different ways and ideas but with the same purpose: "Faithful Footprints" footprints of Jesus.

Memories...

By Wilma Gard

When Trinity Church was organized, much of our social life was centered on the church. Some of the things offered were Christian Endeavor for teens thirteen and up, Sunday School for age three and up, Adult and Children's Choir, Guild for Christian Service for the women and a Men's Fellowship, an athletic program for older boys and men; softball, basketball and dart ball. The young girls attended to root for the home team. It was also a good place to meet other eligible young men.

A group of young married couples organized a once a month meeting for Bible study and fellowship. Not all people attending this group fit into the young married category. Much discussion was held in deciding a name. Finally, it was decided to call it the Pairs and Spares, Hilda and me being the two spares.



By Julia Van Der Noord

Another Women's Group still in existence is the Ladies' Dartball Team now playing their 47th year.

It was the idea of the Men's Dartball League that it would be interesting for the ladies to form a league and to play on Monday Night as they did. The purpose was to increase fellowship among Christian people who were interested in sports. Putting an ad in the Hammond Times, enough ladies responded to form 3 original teams. By 1959, there were 29 teams. In this

increase were Grace Reformed and Trinity Reformed. The only time recorded that no team was willing to venture out was on January 30, 1967 when the entire region was hit by a record-breaking snowstorm.

Because of the large number of teams and players, tournaments were held at the Hammond Civic Center and usually lasted until midnight. The first banquet was held at Hessville Christian Church. Tickets were 50 cents. End of the season banquets are now held at local restaurants. Trophies and awards are given and women say good-bye for the summer months.

In 1970, the Dartball team discovered that they also had musical talents so Henrietta Krooswyk organized a kitchen band known as the "Kitchen Kapers." Director was Carol Van Der Noord with Judy Kooi at the piano. Delightful music was beat out on pots, pans, spoons, wash boards and the kazoo. Theme song was "Happy Days are Here Again." Eager to do a performance they decided on an "All Church Talent Show."

Many hidden talents were discovered such as:

Jenny Van Der Noord and her Chicken Dance
Amy & Scott Kooi - Singing Solos
Greg Brazel - Piano Solo
Betty Saxsma & Lorraine Kooi - Comedy Routine
Ben Kooi - Harmonica Solo
Midge Rittman - Children's Letters to God
Linnea & Becky Van Wingeren - Piano and Solo
Alice Schaap - Recitation
The Barbershop Quartet - Al Kooi, Pete Leestma, Bob Schaap & Al Swart
The Last Laurel and Hardy - Bugs Bunny Routine - Al Kooi and Gary Van Der Noord accompanied by Mary Zeldenrust
The Kitchen Kapers - Gert Boersma, Irene Helder, Hassie Derks, Henrietta Kroosyk , Julia Van Der Noord, Bette Saxsma, Judy Kooi & Carol Van Der Noord.
Commercial messages from the sponsors were done by Hassie, Cheryl and Karen Derks.

Yes, there was food and a fun night for all.

A Challenge for the Future

Pastor Rich Bawinkel

Trinity Reformed Church turns 50 years old in 2006 and so do I. The parsonage, in which Anne and I live, was built the year I was born. Though I cannot foretell the future, my hope (unless the Lord comes again) is that Trinity Reformed Church will long outlive me. It is possible, but not likely that I will live another 50 years on this earth. My hope is that Trinity will still be serving the Lord faithfully long after I die and until the Lord comes again.

Jesus promises us that the kingdom of hell will not prevail against his church (Matthew 16:18). The church of Jesus Christ will continue to exist and to serve him. But there is no guarantee that any particular congregation will continue to exist and to faithfully serve Jesus Christ until he comes again. However, we can take some steps today that will help Trinity be faithful to the Lord until he returns to this earth. Let me mention four:

First, love the Lord. As he has loved you, love him. Make the Lord the center of your life. Count his blessings in your life and say thank you. Express your love in regular worship. Serve the Lord. Obey his teachings. Guard your heart against those temptations that will lead you away from a close and vital relationship with God. When you fail, quickly repent. As you live each day challenge yourself with the question, "How did the Lord experience my love for him today?"

The second step that we can take to help insure that Trinity will have a continuing ministry until Jesus comes again is to be faithful to God's Word. Scripture reveals to us the truth of who God is, the truth of how Jesus Christ has made it possible for our sin-broken relationship with God to be restored, the truth about how the Holy Spirit works in our hearts to assure us of God's love and grace and the truth of how we are called to live for God. Our knowledge of God and of how he calls us to live is dependent on the Bible. Therefore, it is imperative that we continue to grow in our knowledge of God's Word and to teach our children the precious truths of the Bible.

In 2 Timothy 4, the Apostle Paul urges his coworker and "son in the faith," Timothy, to faithfully teach God's Word, because a time is coming when "men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they

will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear" (2 Timothy 4:1-4).

The week after we celebrate our anniversary the film *The DaVinci Code* is scheduled to be released. The film is based on Dan Brown's novel of the same title, which in its various editions and translations has sold more than 40 million copies. The movie and the book are works of fiction, but some people are confusing Dan Brown's fiction for fact. In addition, it is reported that he wants his book to prompt readers to ask if perhaps the church has covered up the "real" truth about Jesus, the real truth to which his fiction might point the way.

A trip to the bookstore will make it clear that others are jumping on Dan Brown's bandwagon. However, that should not surprise us, because throughout history people have questioned what the Bible teaches about Jesus. In a society where people often do not know or understand the Bible and where people's ears are itching for any thing that sounds good or will entertain them we need to faithfully preach and teach the Bible.

The third step we can take to help to insure that Trinity Reformed Church will have a continuing ministry is to serve others in Jesus name. Scripture challenges us with these words: "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers" (Galatians 6:10). Serving others gives us a very concrete way to demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ to them. One of the things that excites me most about my time at Trinity is how we have been seeking to do this:

- Operation Prayer
- Reaching out with gifts and food for needy families at Christmas and Easter
- Our fall Pumpkin Give-a-way and Festival
- Handing out water in the Munster Fourth of July Parade

In addition, there are other ways our congregation has reached out to people both in our congregation and in the community.

Serving others can serve as a bridge to a fourth step we can take to help to insure that Trinity will continue to have a vital ministry until Jesus Christ comes again, and that is to tell others the good news about Jesus. As the Lord gives us the opportunity to tell others how they can have a relationship with him, we need to be prepared to share with them in a simple, genuine, caring way how they can become his children. We need to be prepared to help others grow in their faith and invite them to

join us in continuing the vital ministry that Trinity has had over the past 50 years.

In Luke 18:8, Jesus asks this question: "When the Son of Man [who is Jesus] comes will he find faith on the earth?" As so many who have come before us at Trinity have left faithful footprints for us to follow, may we continue to take steps in which those who come behind us can follow. May we continue to worship the Lord, to teach his Word, to serve others and to tell others about him so that when the Lord comes again he will find faith at Trinity.

Church Information

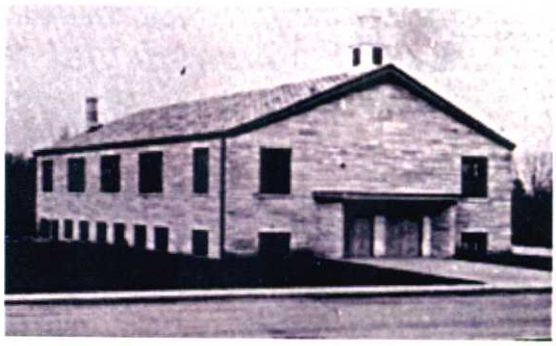
- Our Name — Trinity Reformed Church
  8411 Columbia Ave.
  Munster, IN
  (219)-838-3929
- Web Page Address — www. Trinitymunster.org
- E-mail Address — trinityreformed@sbglobal.net
- Regional Synod — Mid-America
- Classis — Illiana
- 50th Anniversary Committee:
  Garrit and Ida Schaap
  Ellie Scheeringa
  Gary Van Der Noord
  Julia Van Der Noord
  Joan Zeldenrust
- Pastor — Rev. Rich Bawinkel

Historical Sketch
1956-2000

Beginnings

Trinity Reformed Church was organized on May 16, 1956 as a daughter of First Reformed Church of Lansing, Illinois. Services were held at Illiana Christian High School for the fifty-six families, comprised of 124 charter members and 97 baptized members.

The property at Columbia and Ridge Road, a 4-$\frac{1}{2}$ acre plot, was purchased June 1956 for $25,000. On July 4, men of the church cleared the ground and began construction of the parsonage. This donated labor kept the cost at $23,000, so the generous gift of $50,000 from the mother church was a real blessing to the group. The parsonage was ready in January 1957 for the newly installed first pastor, **Rev. Harold Leestma.**



In June, a groundbreaking ceremony started the construction of the $70,000 church building. The doors were first opened for services on Thanksgiving Day, 1957, and the dedication ceremony followed on December 1.

Old pews donated by Roseland Church were first used. In July 1959, new pews were purchased and dedicated. Improvements continued on the church grounds, including the 1960 purchase of an additional lot on Ridge Road adjoining the parsonage.

The 1960's

Rev. N. Vander Werf was installed as Trinity's second pastor in December 1962. In January 1965, **Rev. Gerrit Roseboom** became the third pastor, and **Rev. Paul Schmidt** was installed in 1967.

A significant event was the first mortgage burning ceremony on May 26, 1965, which led to expansion plans.

The 1970's

In August 1971, construction began on the addition to the church. Blessings from our Father and labors of love provided more classrooms, a spacious entry, library, church office and pastor's study as well as additional room to the sanctuary. Dedication ceremony was held on May 7, 1972.

In February 1978, **Rev. Ralph Ver Ploeg** was installed as Trinity's fifth pastor. The second mortgage burning ceremony was held on Thanksgiving Day, 1978.

The 1980's

In 1982, the home east of the parsonage was purchased to meet the growing needs for education space. The home was named "The Agape House", and the debt on it was paid in full in 1985.

In August 1985, **Rev. Darwin Vander Wal** was installed as Trinity's sixth pastor. In November 1989, the congregation approved the expansion and improvement of the parking lot.

The 1990's

The parking lot expansion project was completed in October 1990, providing us with attractive and ample parking space for future growth. At the end of 1990, our membership totaled 162 families, 254 communicant members and 446 total baptized members. Rev. Vander Wal left Trinity Reformed Church in September 1994, after serving as pastor for nine years.

Rev. Timothy J. Schaaf was installed as our seventh pastor on July 16, 1995. During the summer, 1997, we remodeled the pulpit area and added multi-media equipment. Rev. Schaaf left Trinity in August 19, 1999.

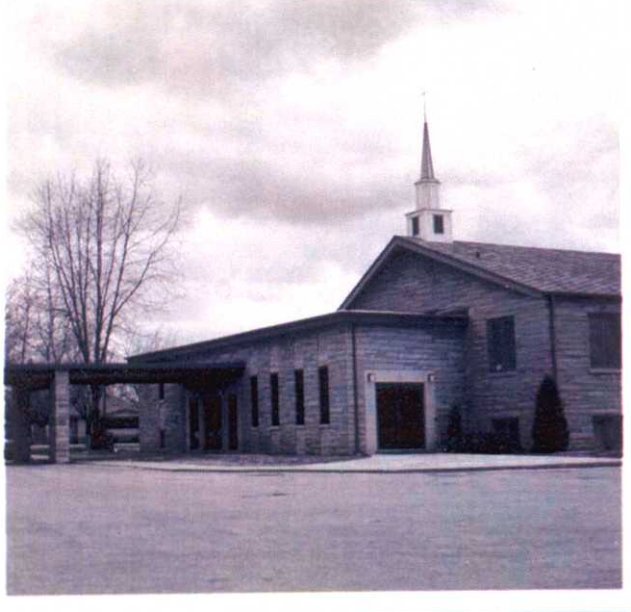
Rev. Philip A. Rauwerdink was our current interim minister between 1999 and 2001.

Rev. Rich Bawinkel came to us on September 11, 2001.

TRINITY MUNSTER HOLDS GROUND-BREAKING SERVICES

The Trinity Reformed Church of Munster, Indiana, the Rev. Harold F. Leestma, pastor, held ground-breaking services on Sunday, June 9, for a $70,000 educational building. The building will be the first unit of a church construction program.

The educational unit to be completed in the fall will consist of a basement and first floor 46 feet by 80 feet. The basement will contain Sunday-school rooms, a dining hall and kitchen. The



Thanksgiving Marks Opening Of New Church

MUNSTER — The first services in the new Trinity Reformed Church of Munster will be held Thanksgiving morning at 9:30 a.m. The congregation will enter the building led by the pastor, the Rev. Harold F. Leestma, pastor of the church.

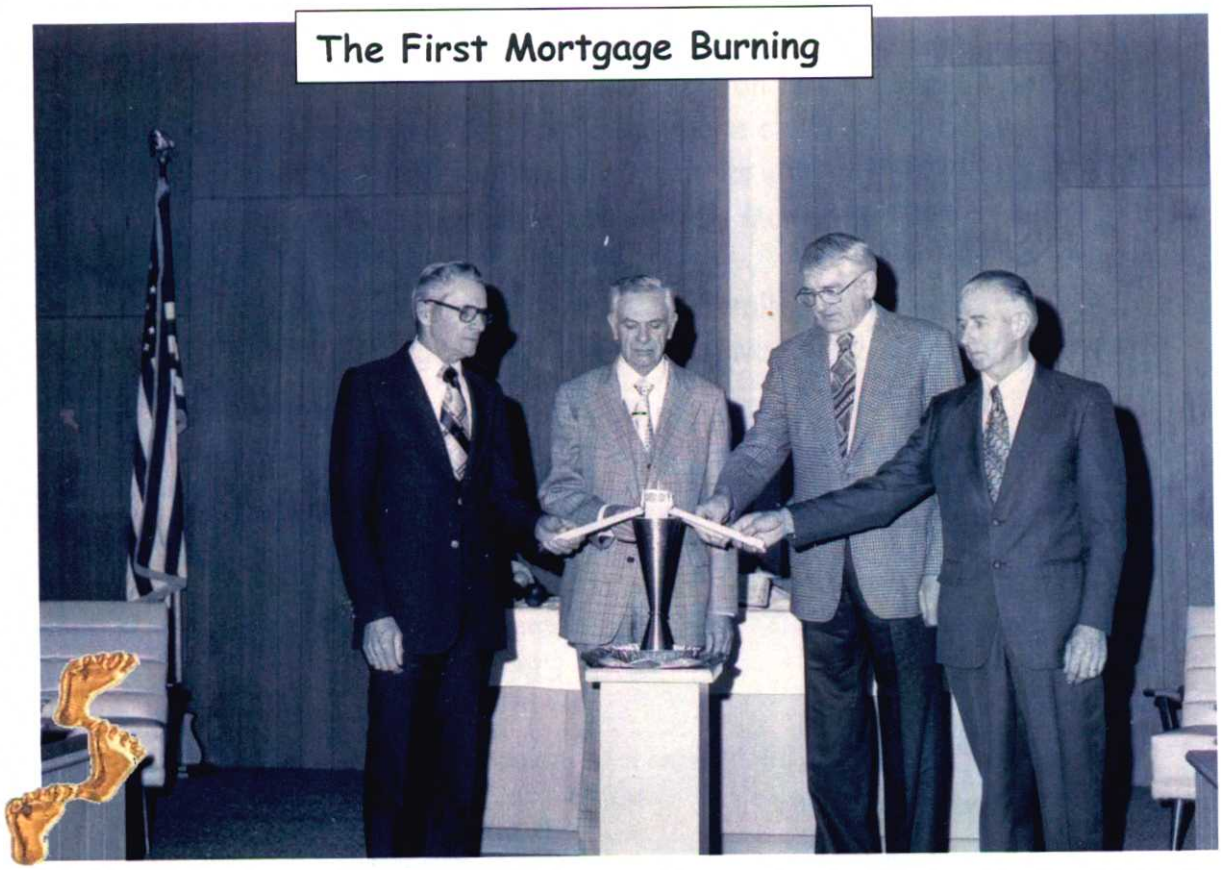
On Sunday, Dec. 1, formal dedication services will be observed with morning services at 9:30 a.m. At this time, the church building will be dedicated. Evening services will begin at 7 a.m. when furnishings in the church will be dedicated.

• • •

COMMUNITY night will be observed Thursday, Dec. 5 at 7:30 p.m. with the Rev. Albert Clay, pastor of the Calvary Reformed Church of South Holland, giving the address. Others taking part in the services will be Mayor William Jabaay of Munster, the Rev. C. Reynen, of the Grace Reformed Church of Lansing, the Rev. William Buursma of the Munster Christian Reformed Church, the Rev. Melvin Folkert of the First Reformed Church of Lansing, the Rev. Charles Blackmon of the Ridge Methodist Church of Munster, the Rev. Albert Tellinghuisen, director of church extension and the Rev. Paul Ammerman of the Woodmar Reformed Church of Hammond.

Open house will be Dec. 6 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. The choir of Garfield Park Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Mich. will present special music, Dec. 8 at 7 p.m.

The First Mortgage Burning



The Second Mortgage Burning

Trinity Reformed Church Mission and Purpose

Our **Mission**:

...is to be a loving and caring community, who, with the help of God, are committed to minister, evangelize and disciple God's people. We believe God has called us to fulfill the Great Commission: to go out into all the world and share the gospel message.

Our **Purpose**:

To **Communicate** Christ to our world, intentionally reaching out to evangelize and desiring to meet the needs of those who do not know Jesus Christ.

To **Celebrate** God among us. We worship in celebration and praise. We are God's people interacting and expressing our joyous thanksgiving for all His benefits to us. In our worship, we are enriched by music, His presence and the power of His Word.

To **Cultivate** personal growth in Christ. We seek to develop and nurture mature Christians who reflect the character of Christ. We grow through preaching and teaching of Scripture, prayer, Bible study and fellowship.

To **Care** about one another in Christ. We believe that as we reflect God's love, we must truly care for each other. We express this love through service and ministry to those in need.

Calvinettes

GEMS Girls' Club

TRINITY REFORMED CHURCH

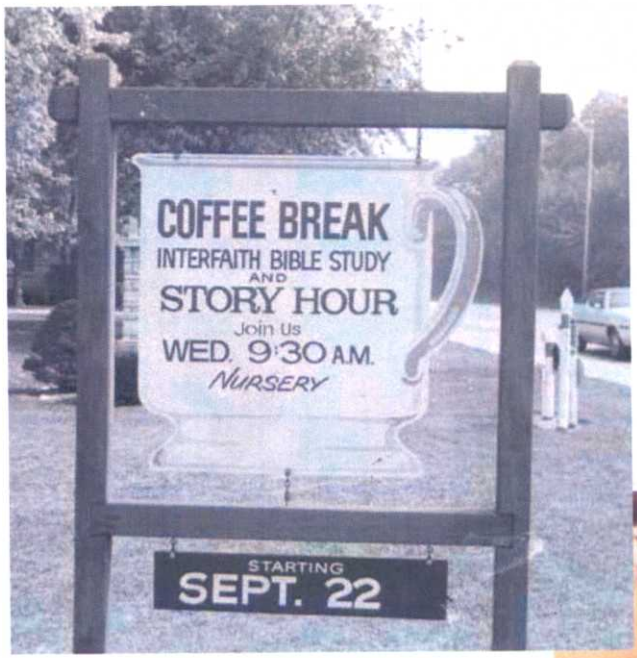
Ridge Road and Columbia Avenue - Munster, Indiana

Coffee Break — *Story Hour* **3-5 years**

Interfaith Bible Study

Wednesday Mornings 9:30 to 10:45
Starting January 21, 1981

Nursery Available



GUILD for Christian Service at Trinity Reformed Church in Munster will meet Thursday evening, March 10, at 7:45 p.m. A playlet will be presented, entitled: "Dr. Sure-Cure See Through It."

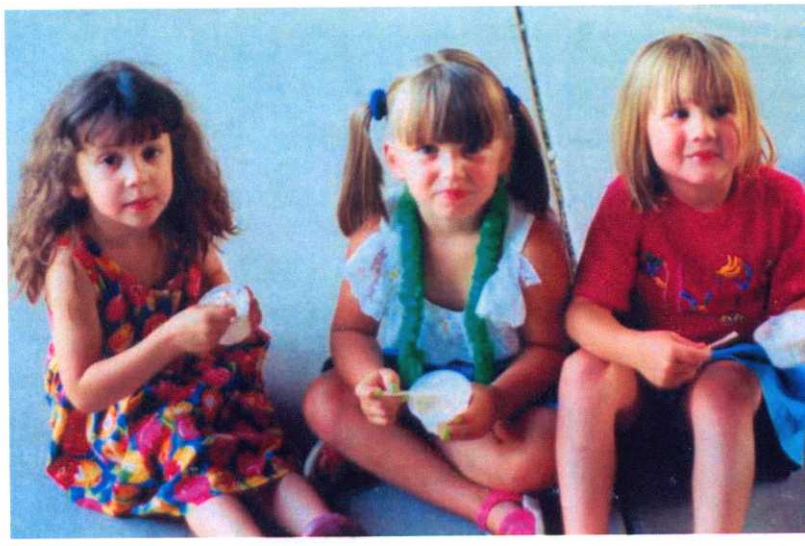
The doctor might discuss some of your ailments, so be sure to attend this meeting and bring a friend with you.

THOSE who take part in the playlet are Mrs. Gerri Natelborg, Mrs. Chris Arends, Mrs. Margaret Krikshiunas, Miss Hilda Kikkert, Miss Jessie Schoon, Mrs. Julia VanderNoord, Mrs. Martha Vanderwall and Mrs. Lois Leestma.

Hostesses for the evening will be the Mesdames Frank Slager, Cornelius Hoogewerf, William Kuipers and Mae Carlson. Devotions were presented by Mrs. Harlan Murray.

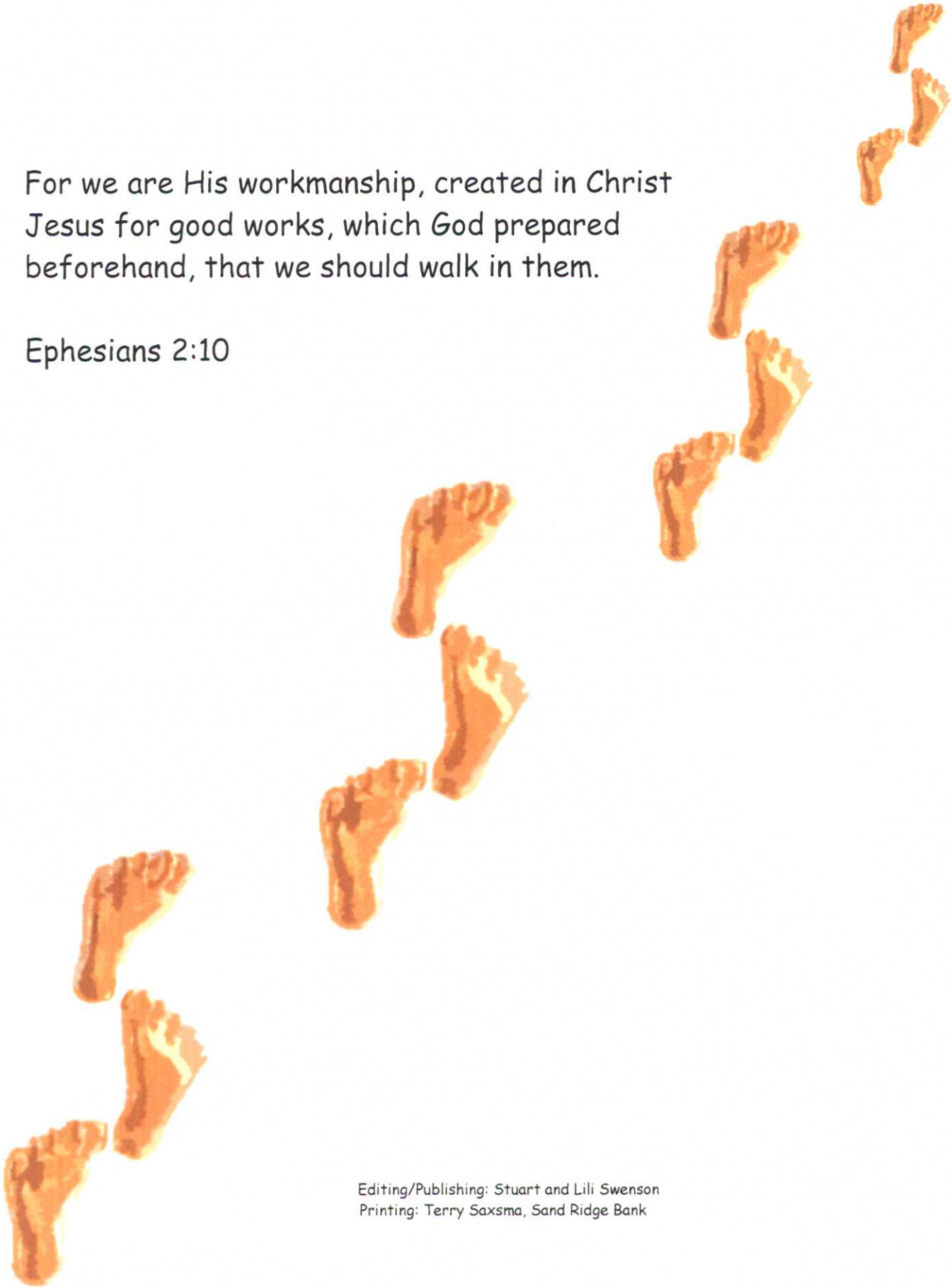
Next month's meeting will include a book review, "Dr. Ida Scudder," by Mrs. Frank Slager.

VACATION BIBLE
SCHOOL JULY 21-25
JESUS



For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 2:10



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